

Notice of Allowability	Application No.	Applicant(s)	
	10/826,068	JEWELL ET AL.	
	Examiner	Art Unit	
	Thuy V. Tran	2821	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to amendment filed 07/19/2005 & Telephone Interview held 08/09/2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-12.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 4/19/04 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

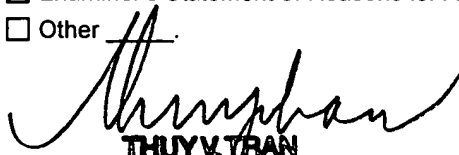
* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.
THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>080905</u>. 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____ |
|--|---|


THUY V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

DETAILED ACTION

This is a response to the Applicant's amendment submitted on July 19th, 2005, and a telephone interview held on August 9th, 2005. In virtue of this amendment and this telephone interview:

- Claims 1-10 are originally filed;
- Claim 11 is newly added upon the amendment filed on July 19th, 2005;
- Claim 12 is newly added upon the Examiner's Amendment set up by the telephone interview held on 08/09/2005; and thus,
- Claims 1-12 are now presented in the instant application.

Examiner's Amendment

1. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with G. F. Gallinger on August 9th, 2005.

The Examiner's Amendment includes:

Claim 1, line 9, delete “,”;

Claim 2, line 3, change “an” to --the--;

Claim 2, after “.”, starting from line 5 to the end of line 10, delete “A method as in claim 2 ...to the light bulb.”;

Claim 4, line 2, change “an” to --the--;

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Claim 5, lines 5-7, delete "the physical configuration comprises ... so as to correspond to lights on the vehicle.", and insert --the multiple light bulbs monitored are light bulbs on a vehicle, and wherein the LEDs are arranged in the display panel displaying a shape of the vehicle and having the LEDs positioned thereon to correspond to the light bulbs on the vehicle.-- therefor;

Claim 6, line 1, change "5" to --12--;

Claim 6, line 2, change "a LED" to --the LED that corresponds to the particular one of the light bulbs--;

Claim 7, line 9, delete ",";

Claim 8, line 2, change "an" to --the--; and insert --the-- between "to" (second occurrence) and "ground";

Claim 8, line 3, change "an" to --the--;

Claim 10, line 1, change "an" to --the--;

Claim 10, line 2, insert --the-- between "and" and "ground";

Claim 10, line 3, insert --the-- between "to" and "ground";

Claim 11, line 9, replace "one bulb" with --particular one of the bulbs--;

Claim 11, lines 11-12, replace "a corresponding one of the LEDs" with --a LED corresponding to the particular one of the bulbs--;

Claim 11, line 13, replace "particular one LED" with --LED corresponding to the particular one of the bulbs--;

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Claim 11, line 14, replace "particular one LED" with --LED corresponding to the particular one of the bulbs--; and replace "light bulb" with --particular one of the bulbs--; and delete ", "; and

Claim 12 (newly added): --A method as in claim 5 wherein the vehicle display panel comprises a chip.--

Allowable Subject Matter

2. Claims 1-12 are allowed.

Reasons for Allowance

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Prior art fails to disclose or fairly suggest:

- A method of monitoring the operability of a light bulb, both while lit and unlit, comprising a step of providing a circuit containing a LED, a relay, and a latching circuit portion, said latching circuit portion configured to remain latched thereby applying power to the bulb and the relay only when the bulb is switched on and lit, and said relay having a pair of contacts connected to provide an alternative path of minimal resistance to ground for low voltage applied to an incoming side of the LED, and said relay also having an additional pair of contacts which when closed allow voltage to be applied to an outgoing side of the LED, thereby resulting in the LED lighting when and only when the light bulb is broken, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 1 (claims 2-4 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 1); and

- A circuit to monitor the operability of a light bulb, both while lit and unlit, comprising a LED, a relay, and a latching circuit portion, said latching circuit portion configured to remain latched thereby applying power to the bulb and the relay only when the bulb is switched on and lit, and said relay having a pair of contacts connected to provide an alternative path of minimal resistance to ground for low voltage applied to an incoming side of the LED, and said relay also having an additional pair of contacts which when closed allow voltage to be applied to an outgoing side of the LED, thereby resulting in the LED lighting when and only when the light bulb is broken, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 7 (claims 8-10 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 7); and
- A method for monitoring the operability of multiple light bulbs, both while lit and/or unlit, comprising providing multiple circuit each circuit provided to monitor the operation of a particular one of the light bulbs, each circuit containing a relay and a latching circuit portion, said latching circuit portion configured to remain latched thereby applying power to the particular one of the bulbs and the circuit relay only when the particular one of the bulbs is switched on and lit, and said relay having a pair of contacts connected to provide an alternative path of minimal resistance to ground for low voltage applied to an incoming side of a LED corresponding to the particular one of the bulbs, and said relay also having an additional pair of contacts which when closed allow voltage to be applied to an outgoing side of the LED corresponding to the particular one of the bulbs, thereby resulting in the LED

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corresponding to the particular one of the bulbs lighting when and only when the particular one of the bulbs is broken, in combination with the remaining claimed limitations as called for in independent claim 11 (claims 5-6 and 12 are allowed since they are dependent on claim 11).

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Citation of relevant prior art

4. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Prior art Neiger et al. (Pub. No.: US 2002/0149891 A1) discloses an arc fault circuit interrupter device.

Inquiry

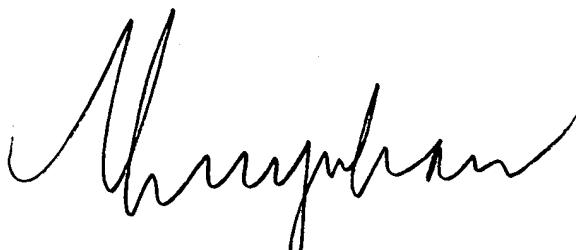
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Thuy V. Tran whose telephone number is (571) 272-1828. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (8:00 AM -5:00 PM).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Don Wong can be reached on (571) 272-1834. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (571) 273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

08/09/2005



THUY V. TRAN
PRIMARY EXAMINER